

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
detecting the presence of a portable radio device within range of a radio frequency communications link; and
sending a command to the portable radio device using the radio frequency communications link to change an internal setting of the portable radio device .
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the internal setting comprises at least one of a text message, an audio message, a video message, power down, ringer off, and ringer volume adjust.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein detecting comprises:
broadcasting a query command using the radio communications link; and
receiving an identification message from the portable radio device over the radio communications link; and
wherein sending comprises sending the command including the identification.
4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising before sending the command:
sending a message to the portable radio device to cause the portable radio device to instruct a user of the portable radio device to change the internal setting of the portable radio device;
waiting for a time interval; and

determining whether the user has changed the internal setting; and
wherein sending comprises sending the command if the user has not changed the internal setting.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the internal setting comprises a power on/off setting, wherein determining comprises determining whether the portable radio device power has been set to off, and wherein sending the command comprises sending a command to the portable radio device to power down.

6. The method of Claim 4, wherein sending a message comprises at least one of sending a text message, sending an audio message, and simulating a call.

7. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

detecting the presence of a portable radio device within range of a radio frequency communications link; and

sending a command to the portable radio device using the radio frequency communications link to change an internal setting of the portable radio device .

8. The medium of Claim 7, wherein the internal setting comprises at least one of a text message, an audio message, a video message, power down, ringer off, and ringer volume adjust.

9. The medium of Claim 7, wherein the instructions for detecting comprise instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising:

broadcasting a query command using the radio communications link; and
receiving an identification message from the portable radio device over the radio communications link; and

wherein sending comprises sending the command including the identification.

10. The medium of Claim 7, further comprising instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations before sending the command comprising:

sending a message to the portable radio device to cause the portable radio device to instruct a user of the portable radio device to change the internal setting of the portable radio device;

waiting for a time interval; and

determining whether the user has changed the internal setting; and

wherein sending comprises sending the command if the user has not changed the internal setting.

11. The medium of Claim 10, wherein the internal setting comprises a power on/off setting, wherein the instructions for determining comprise instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising determining whether the portable radio device power has been set to off, and

wherein the instructions for sending the command comprise instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising sending a command to the portable radio device to power down.

12. The medium of Claim 10, wherein the instructions for sending a message comprise instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising at least one of sending a text message, sending an audio message, and simulating a call.

13. A control station comprising: ✓
a transceiver to establish a radio frequency communications link;
a memory to store commands for changing an internal setting of a portable radio device; and
a processor coupled to the memory to cause the presence of a portable radio device within range of the radio frequency communications link to be detected and to cause a command to be sent to the detected portable radio device using the radio frequency communications link to change an internal setting of the portable radio device .

14. The station of Claim 13, wherein the internal setting comprises at least one of a text message, an audio message, a video message, power down, ringer off, and ringer volume adjust.

15. The station of Claim 13, wherein the detecting is accomplished by:

broadcasting a query command using the radio communications link; and
receiving an identification message from the portable radio device over the radio communications link; and
wherein the command is sent with the received identification.

16. The station of Claim 13, wherein the message comprises at least one of a text message, an audio message, and a simulated call.

17. A control station comprising:
an antenna:
a transceiver coupled to the antenna to establish a radio frequency communications link through the antenna;
a memory to store commands for changing an internal setting of a portable radio device; and
a processor coupled to the memory to cause the presence of a portable radio device within range of the radio frequency communications link to be detected and to cause a command to be sent to the detected portable radio device using the radio frequency communications link to change an internal setting of the portable radio device .

18. The station of Claim 17, wherein the internal setting comprises at least one of a text message, an audio message, a video message, power down, ringer off, and ringer volume adjust.

19. The station of Claim 17, wherein the detecting is accomplished by:
broadcasting a query command using the radio communications link; and
receiving an identification message from the portable radio device over the radio
communications link; and

wherein the command is sent with the received identification.

20. The station of Claim 17, wherein the message comprises at least one of a
text message, an audio message, and a simulated call.

21. A method comprising: ✓
detecting the presence of a control station within range of a radio frequency
communications link;
receiving a command from the control station using the radio frequency
communications link to change an internal setting; and
executing the received command.

22. The method of Claim 21, wherein the internal setting comprises at least
one of a text message, an audio message, a video message, power down, ringer off, and
ringer volume adjust.

23. The method of Claim 21, wherein detecting comprises:
receiving a broadcast query command from the control station over the radio
communications link; and

sending an identification message to the control station over the radio communications link; and
wherein receiving comprises receiving the command including the identification.

24. The method of Claim 21, further comprising before receiving the command:

receiving a message from the control station to instruct a user to change the internal setting;
waiting for a time interval; and
determining whether the user has changed the internal setting; and
wherein executing the command comprises executing the command if the user has not changed the internal setting.

25. The method of Claim 24, wherein the internal setting comprises a power on/off setting, wherein determining comprises determining whether the power has been set to off, and wherein receiving the command comprises receiving a command to power down.

26. The method of Claim 24, wherein receiving a message comprises at least one of receiving a text message, receiving an audio message, and simulating a call.

27. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

detecting the presence of a control station within range of a radio frequency communications link;

receiving a command from the control station using the radio frequency communications link to change an internal setting; and

executing the received command.

28. The medium of Claim 27, wherein the internal setting comprises at least one of a text message, an audio message, a video message, power down, ringer off, and ringer volume adjust.

29. The medium of Claim 27, wherein the instructions for detecting comprise instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising :

receiving a broadcast query command from the control station over the radio communications link; and

sending an identification message to the control station over the radio communications link; and

wherein the instructions for receiving comprise instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising receiving the command including the identification.

30. The medium of Claim 27 further comprising instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations before receiving the command comprising :

receiving a message from the control station to instruct a user to change the internal setting;

waiting for a time interval; and

determining whether the user has changed the internal setting; and

wherein receiving comprises receiving the command if the user has not changed the internal setting.

31. The medium of Claim 27, wherein the message comprises at least one of a text message, an audio message, and simulating a call.

32. A portable radio device comprising:

a transceiver to establish a radio frequency communications link with a control station;

a memory to store commands for changing an internal setting; and

a processor coupled to the memory to cause an internal setting to be changed upon receiving a command using the radio frequency communications link from the control station to change an internal setting.

33. The device of Claim 32, wherein the internal setting comprises at least one of a text message, an audio message, a video message, power down, ringer off, and ringer volume adjust.

34. The device of Claim 32, wherein the processor further causes the mobile radio station to register with a control station by:

receiving a query command from the control station through the transceiver; and
sending an identification message to the control station; and
wherein the received command includes the sent identification.

35. The device of Claim 32, wherein the received command comprises at least one of a text message, an audio message, and a simulated call.

36. A portable radio device comprising:

an antenna:

a transceiver to establish a radio frequency communications link with a control station;

a memory to store commands for changing an internal setting; and

a processor coupled to the memory to cause an internal setting to be changed upon receiving a command using the radio frequency communications link from the control station to change an internal setting.

37. The device of Claim 36, wherein the internal setting comprises at least one of a text message, an audio message, a video message, power down, ringer off, and ringer volume adjust.

38. The device of Claim 36, wherein the processor further causes the mobile radio station to register with a control station by:

receiving a query command from the control station through the transceiver; and
sending an identification message to the control station; and
wherein the received command includes the sent identification.

39. The device of Claim 36, wherein the received command comprises at least one of a text message, an audio message, and a simulated call.

40. A method comprising:

receiving at least one message from a portable radio device on an out of band channel, the at least one message indicating an identification of the portable radio device, a request to make an external connection, and an identification of an external device to which the portable radio device wishes to connect;
establishing a connection to the identified external device; and
coupling the portable radio device to the established connection using an out of band channel.

41. The method of Claim 40, wherein the external device is a public switched telephone network.

42. The method of Claim 40, wherein the external device is a base station for in band communications.

43. The method of Claim 42, wherein establishing a connection comprises establishing a connection to a remote radio transceiver in communication with the base station.

44. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising comprising:

receiving at least one message from a portable radio device on an out of band channel, the at least one message indicating an identification of the portable radio device, a request to make an external connection, and an identification of an external device to which the portable radio device wishes to connect;

establishing a connection to the identified external device; and

coupling the portable radio device to the established connection using an out of band channel.

45. The medium of Claim 44, wherein the external device is a public switched telephone network.

46. The medium of Claim 44, wherein the external device is a base station for in band communications.

47. The medium of Claim 46, wherein the instructions for establishing a connection comprise instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising establishing a connection to a remote radio transceiver in communication with the base station.

48. A control station comprising:

a transceiver to receive at least one message from a portable radio device on an out of band channel, the at least one message indicating an identification of the portable radio device, a request to make an external connection, and an identification of an external device to which the portable radio device wishes to connect;

an external communications interface to establish a connection to the identified external device;

a bus to couple data between the transceiver and the external communications interface; and

a processor to couple the portable radio device to the established connection through the bus using an out of band channel to the transceiver.

49. The station of Claim 48, wherein the external device is a public switched telephone network.

50. The station of Claim 48, wherein the external device is a base station for in band communications and the external communications interface communicates with the base station using in band communications.

51. The station of Claim 50, wherein establishing a connection comprises establishing a connection to a remote radio transceiver in communication with the base station.

52. A control station comprising:

an antenna:

a transceiver coupled to the antenna to receive at least one message from a portable radio device on an out of band channel, the at least one message indicating an identification of the portable radio device, a request to make an external connection, and an identification of an external device to which the portable radio device wishes to connect;

an external communications interface to establish a connection to the identified external device;

a bus to couple data between the transceiver and the external communications interface; and

a processor to couple the portable radio device to the established connection through the bus using an out of band channel to the transceiver.

53. The station of Claim 52, wherein the external device is a public switched telephone network and the external communications interface is a telephony modem.

54. The station of Claim 52, wherein the external device is a base station for in band communications and the external communications interface communicates with the base station using in band communications.

55. A method comprising:

 sending at least one message to a control station on an out of band channel, the at least one message indicating an identification, a request to make an external connection, and an identification of an external device with which to connect;

 receiving a message that a connection to the identified external device has been established; and

 coupling to the external device using an out of band channel to the control station and the established connection .

56. The method of Claim 55, wherein the external device is a public switched telephone network.

57. The method of Claim 55, wherein the external device is a base station for in band communications.

58. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising comprising:

sending at least one message to a control station on an out of band channel, the at least one message indicating an identification, a request to make an external connection, and an identification of an external device with which to connect;

receiving a message that a connection to the identified external device has been established; and

coupling to the external device using an out of band channel to the control station and the established connection .

59. The medium of Claim 58, wherein the external device is a public switched telephone network.

60. The medium of Claim 58, wherein the external device is a base station for in band communications.

61. A portable radio device comprising:

an out of band transceiver to communicate with a control station using out of band channels;

a processor coupled to the out of band transceiver to cause the transceiver to send at least one message to the control station on an out of band channel, the at least one message indicating an identification, a request to make an external connection, and an

identification of an external device with which to connect and to receive a message that a connection to the identified external device has been established.

62. The device of Claim 61, wherein the external device is a public switched telephone network.

63. The device of Claim 61, wherein the external device is a base station for in band communications.

64. The device of Claim 61, further comprising a microphone and a speaker coupled to the processor to provide a telephone call over the external connection using the out of band channel.

65. The device of Claim 61, further comprising an in band transceiver to communicate with cellular telephony base stations.

66. A portable radio device comprising:
an antenna;
an out of band transceiver coupled to the antenna to communicate with a control station using out of band channels;
a processor coupled to the out of band transceiver to cause the transceiver to send at least one message to the control station on an out of band channel, the at least one message indicating an identification, a request to make an external connection, and an

identification of an external device with which to connect and to receive a message that a connection to the identified external device has been established.

67. The device of Claim 66, further comprising a microphone and a speaker coupled to the processor to provide a telephone call over the external connection using the out of band channel.

68. The device of Claim 66, further comprising a second antenna and an in band transceiver coupled to the antenna to communicate with cellular telephony base stations.

69. A method comprising sending a message on an out of band channel to a portable radio device to convey information to a user of the portable radio device. ✓

70. The method of Claim 69, wherein sending a message comprises sending at least one of a text sequence, a video sequence, and an audio sequence.

71. The method of Claim 69, further comprising:
broadcasting a low power query command in a small area on an out of band channel;
receiving a second message from the portable radio device on an out of band channel, the message indicating an identification of the portable radio device; and

wherein the message is directed to the portable radio device using the identification.

72. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising sending a message on an out of band channel to a portable radio device to convey information to a user of the portable radio device. ✓

73. The medium of Claim 72, wherein sending a message comprises sending at least one of a text sequence, a video sequence, and an audio sequence.

74. The medium of Claim 72, further comprising:
broadcasting a low power query command in a small area on an out of band channel;

receiving a second message from the portable radio device on an out of band channel, the message indicating an identification of the portable radio device; and

wherein the message is directed to the portable radio device using the identification.

75. A control station comprising
an out of band transceiver; /
a memory to store information for user presentation; and

a processor to cause the transceiver to send a message on an out of band channel to a portable radio device, the message containing information from the memory for presentation to a user of the portable radio device.

76. The station of Claim 75, wherein the message information comprises at least one of a text sequence, a video sequence, and an audio sequence.

77. The station of Claim 75, wherein the processor further causes the transceiver:

to broadcast a low power query command in a small area on an out of band channel;

to receive a second message from the portable radio device on an out of band channel, the message indicating an identification of the portable radio device; and

to send the information message to the portable radio device using the identification.

78. A control station comprising
an out of band antenna;
an out of band transceiver coupled to the antenna;
a memory to store information for user presentation; and
a processor to cause the transceiver to send a message on an out of band channel to a portable radio device, the message containing information from the memory for presentation to a user of the portable radio device.

79. The station of Claim 78, wherein the message information comprises at least one of a text sequence, a video sequence, and an audio sequence.

80. The station of Claim 78, wherein the processor further causes the transceiver:

to broadcast a low power query command in a small area on an out of band channel;

to receive a second message from the portable radio device on an out of band channel, the message indicating an identification of the portable radio device; and

to send the information message to the portable radio device using the identification.

81. A method comprising:

receiving a message at a portable device on an out of band channel containing information for presentation to a user of the portable radio device; and

presenting the information to a user of the portable radio device.

82. The method of Claim 81, wherein the presented information comprises sending at least one of a text sequence, a video sequence, and an audio sequence.

83. The method of Claim 81, wherein receiving comprises receiving from a control station, the method further comprising registering with the control station before receiving the message.

84. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising comprising:

receiving a message at a portable device on an out of band channel containing information for presentation to a user of the portable radio device; and
presenting the information to a user of the portable radio device.

85. The medium of Claim 84, wherein the presented information comprises sending at least one of a text sequence, a video sequence, and an audio sequence.

86. The medium of Claim 84, wherein the instructions for receiving comprise instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising receiving from a control station, the medium further comprising instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising registering with the control station before receiving the message.

87. A portable radio device comprising: /
a transceiver to communicate with a control station on an out of band channel;

a memory to store a message received from the control station on the out of band channel, the message containing information for presentation to a user of the portable radio device; and

a user interface to present the stored message to the user of the portable radio device.

88. The device of Claim 87, wherein the presented information comprises at least one of a text sequence, a video sequence, and an audio sequence.

89. The device of Claim 87, wherein the presented information comprises a message instructing the user to alter an internal setting of the device.

90. A portable radio device comprising:

an antenna;

a transceiver coupled to the antenna to communicate with a control station on an out of band channel;

a memory to store a message received from the control station on the out of band channel, the message containing information for presentation to a user of the portable radio device; and

a user interface to present the stored message to the user of the portable radio device.

91. The device of Claim 90, wherein the presented information comprises at least one of a text sequence, a video sequence, and an audio sequence.

92. The device of Claim 90, wherein the presented information comprises a message instructing the user to alter an internal setting of the device.